



Contact: Jennifer Lawson (406) 444-5228

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For Immediate Release

Special Note: ****Montana Young Adult Service Corps/AmeriCorps Members will participate in a LIVE VIDEO CHAT ON SKYPE about Global Youth Service Day with members of the Minnesota Alliance With Youth that will air at the **Mall of America** on Sunday, April 25 at 12:50pm.***

**Youths Gear Up for 'Global Youth Service Day' Community Projects Across Montana
-THIS WEEKEND-**

Friday, Saturday, Sunday– April 23, 24, 25

(serve.mt.gov)

Helena – The Governor's Office of Community Service (serve.mt.gov) announced today that nearly 2,000 youths across Montana will be helping their communities as part of Global Youth Service Day (gysd.org), an annual campaign that celebrates and mobilizes youths across the country and the world who improve their communities each day of the year through service and service-learning. **Global Youth Service Day Events will be held this weekend, April 23-25.**

"We want to get as many young people as possible involved in Global Youth Service Day," said Jan Lombardi, Director of the Governor's Office of Community Service. "Volunteering in your community when you are young creates a strong commitment to service for life."

The Governor's Office of Community Service is a Lead Agency for Global Youth Service Day and has awarded 34 Montana organizations mini-grants of up to \$150 dollars per project that involve community service projects for youths. Projects include: building fences, building recycling bins, creating community gardens, cleaning up parks and highways, sewing pillow cases for children in foster homes and seniors in nursing homes, trail restoration and more.

Click here: [Global Youth Service Day Projects around the State](#)

"The \$100 mini-grant award is a huge relief for us, we will now be able to adequately provide for our volunteers," said Scott Crooks, AmeriCorps VISTA member and mini-grant recipient. "We are using our mini-grant award to buy simple things like gloves and

trash bags and food for our youth volunteers who will be cleaning up trash at Meatloaf Hill in Helena.”

Montana organizations, schools, programs and individuals that coordinate and implement service projects for youths were eligible for the mini-grant award with the deadline of April 2, 2010. Thirty-four applications were received and all were funded.

State Farm Companies Foundation (statefarm.com) is the Presenting Sponsor of Global Youth Service Day in the United States. The Governor’s Office of Community Service is a Lead Agency for Global Youth Service Day through Youth Service America (ysa.org), an international nonprofit resource center that partners with thousands of organizations to expand the impact of the youth service movement.

Global Youth Service Day (gysd.org) was established in 1988 and is the largest service event in the world and is now celebrated in over 100 countries.

For more information, visit the website; serve.mt.gov.

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Contact:

Jennifer Lawson

Press Contact, Governor’s Office of Community Service

(406) 444-5228/ c (406) 459-3483

Jlawson2@mt.gov

Jan Lombardi

Director, Governor’s Office of Community Service

(406) 444-9077

jlombardi@mt.gov